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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/975,329	10/11/2001	Martinus J. Hester	702-011760	6913
7590	07/15/2004			
Richard L. Byrne WEBB ZIESENHEIM LOGSDON ORKIN & HANSON, P.C. 700 Koppers Building 436 Seventh Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1818			EXAMINER	TRAN, THUY VAN
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3652	
DATE MAILED: 07/15/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/975,329	HESTER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Thuy v. Tran	3652	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 April 2004.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 19,20,22,25-28,30,33 and 34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 19,20,22,25-28,30,33 and 34 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 08 April 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

The drawings were received on April 8, 2004. These drawings are approved.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 19, 20, 22, 25-28, 30, 33 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tremblay et al. 5,533,594 in view of Schaffner et al. 6,000,758.

Tremblay '594 discloses a device for transporting person along a staircase, comprising a frame 36 displaceable along a guide 12, a drive selectively displace the frame along the guide, a chair on the frame on which a person for transporting can be seated. Tremblay does not disclose a chair having a seat part being capable of pivoted up and downward in a pivoting movement.

Schaffner '758 discloses a reclining lift chair comprising a seat part 11, Figs. 9-12, and a back rest 40, wherein the seat part on the side directed toward the back rest can be pivoted up and downward in a pivoting movement on a substantially horizontal pivot axis and forms a guide during standing up or sitting down, and the back rest (as broadly claimed) is connected to the seat part and co-displaces in substantially upright position with the seat part.

The seat part 11 and the back rest 40 are connected by means of a guide mechanism (linkages) for guiding movement of the seat part relative to the back rest. Wherein the guide mechanism (linkages) comprises a rod construction 18, 20, Figs. 9-12 and 14, coupled by hinges to form a parallelogram.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have utilized the reclining lift chair for the transporting device of Tremblay as disclosed by Schaffner in order to assist a needed person getting on and off the lifting chair.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed April 8, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants argue that neither of the Trembley et al or Schaffner et al patents teach or suggest a device wherein the hinges of a rod construction form a parallelogram. Schaffner et al clearly show in

Figures 9-12 and 14 the guide mechanism comprises a rod construction 18, 20, Figs. 9-12 and 14, coupled by hinges to form a parallelogram.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thuy v. Tran whose telephone number is 703-308-2558. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eileen D. Lillis can be reached on 703-308-3248. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TVT (TVT)


EILEEN D. LILLIS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600